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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted
by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1955. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health, and a recapitulation of all the information has been made for the year under review.

The Port has again enjoyed a very satisfactory trading year, the number of vessels entering the Dock increasing from 992 in 1954 to 1,002 in 1955. The character of the trade of the Port varied only slightly from that of previous years and there has been little change in the principal foreign ports from which ships arrived.

There has again been a complete absence of infectious diseases, and in this respect I am satisfied that present arrangements are adequate to deal effectively with any outbreak that may occur.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.G. SMEATON.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

FEBRUARY, 1956.

SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
SMEATON, W.G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1-7-50	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H. Barrister-at-Law.	Assistant C.M.O. - Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health - Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Insp- ector.	15-10-45	Cert S.I.B., Cert Meat & Food Insp- ector.	Chief Sanitary Inspector Borough of Boston.
DAVEY, S.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	12-2-51 (Resigned 30-11-55)	Cert S.I.B., Cert Meat & Food Insp- ector.	Additional Sanitary Inspector - Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone)
number of the Medical)
Officer of Health.)

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs.
BOSTON 2639.

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected.		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.	
Foreign Ports.	623.	144,370.	14.	59.	Nil.
Coastwise.	379.	73,372.	Nil.	17.	Nil.
Total.	1,002.	217,742.	14.	76.	Nil.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 95. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 82.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Coal, Deals, Feeding Stuffs, Fertilizers, Flour, Fruit and Vegetables, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Sleepers, Steel Bars etc., Sugar Beet Seed, Telegraph Poles and Waggon Bottoms. Principal EXPORTS : Baled Straw, Bren-Gun Carriers, Coal, Feeding Stuffs, Grain, Pig Iron, Spent Oxide and General.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BALEARIC ISLANDS : Palma. BELGIUM : Antwerp, Ghent, Terneuzen, Zeebrugge. CYPRUS : Famagusta. DENMARK : Fredericia, Nykobing. EGYPT : Alexandria. FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Kasko, Kotka, Mantyluoto, Pateniemi, Rafso, Vietsiluoto, Walkom. FRANCE : Bordeaux, Duclair, St Valery. GERMANY : Bremen, Emden, Hamburg, Kiel, Rostock, Wismar. HOLLAND : Amsterdam, Hansweert, Harlingen, Maassluis, Rotterdam, Wormerveer. NORWAY : Arendal, Hommelvik, Porsgrunn, Skien. POLAND : Gdansk, Stettin. PORTUGAL : Lisbon. RUSSIA : Archangel, Igarka, Kem, Leningrad. SARDINIA : Cagliari. SPAIN : Almeria, Burriana, Gandia, Valencia. SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Hudiksvall, Karlshamn, Karlskrona, Karlstad, Kopmanholmen, Kristinehamn, Oskarshamn, Sundsvall.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

- (a) The District.
- (b) Shipping.

The supply for both (a) and (b) is obtained from the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

Frequent bacteriological examinations of the water are carried out and all the reports have been satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

The Port Manager, the Pilot Master and H.M. Customs are each supplied with a list of infected areas which is amended as necessary from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)).
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

The Pilot Boarding Station, 5 miles from the Port in the Wash, is connected by radio telephone with the Dock Master's Office and information of vessels requiring special attention is transmitted by the pilots. The Medical Officer is immediately informed by telephone and the vessel can be sent to the Quarantine Station to await the Medical Officer.

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

(a) Within the Docks: The vacant berth in Boston Dock.

(b) Outside the Docks: The Quarantine Station - "Clay Hole".

5. Arrangements for :-

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII) :

Such accommodation is available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed postcards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

The cleansing and disinfection of ships is carried out by the Port Health Authority's staff under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

Clothing, bedding and other portable articles are dealt with at the disinfecting station.

Arrangements have been made for the cleansing of verminous persons at the Health Centre, London Road.

SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J.H.C. Clarke,
County Offices,
Sleaford.

Dr. J. Glen,
Springfield Hospital,
Scarthoe,
Grimsby.

Dr. G. Nisbet,
Bridge Street,
Peterborough.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A.W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, School of Hygiene, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient clinics are conducted at London Road Hospital, Boston, at 4.30 p.m. each Tuesday. If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient treatment can be arranged by the Grimsby Hospital Management Committee.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1955.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1955.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, 10.

During the year no ships were found to be infested with rats.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	Nil.
Brown rats	Nil.
Species not known	Nil.
Sent for examination ..	Nil.
Infected with plague ..	Nil.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	7.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	8.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	Nil.
Total.	15.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction.	68	Nil	Nil	-
Structural Defects through wear and tear.	71	Nil	3	2 repairs carried out. 1 sailed before completion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health	91	Nil	6	6 complied with.
Total	91	Nil	9	8 complied with.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations,
1934 and 1948.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1955, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.
